

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – November 12, 2013

Vice Mayor Meyer called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Hopkins, Bertoglio, Powell, Sandoval and Goodenough. Absent: Mayor Schlager, Councilmen Hedquist and Cathey.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by V.H. McDonald regarding proposed amendments to the City's liquor laws. Staff has identified several sections of the code that are duplicates of the state statutes and should be repealed so as to make the City's requirements that are more restrictive than statute, easier to reference. Council agreed that these changes would be appropriate and directed staff to prepare an ordinance to repeal the duplicate sections.

Councilman Cathey joined the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

City Attorney Bill Luben presented a request from the Amoco Reuse Agreement Joint Powers Board to ratify the sale of 11 properties under the Joint Powers Agreement requirement to make certain that the titles to these properties would not be in question. The second part of the request would be to prepare an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement to eliminate the requirement for City and County approval before property sales could take place. Council discussed the ratification request and agreed to move this forward to a regular Council meeting. The attorney for the Joint Powers Board, Dave Drell, was also present to answer questions regarding the request for a future amendment to the agreement. The attorneys noted that any amendment would have to be submitted to the State Attorney General's Office for approval prior to bringing it forward to the City Council and County Commission. Council agreed to move the proposed amendment forward.

City Attorney Luben presented a proposal for an agreement between the City of Casper and Hospitality Development Corporation to repay the attorney's fees which were paid by the City in the process to issue Industrial Development Bonds for the improvement projects on the hotel complex known as the Parkway Plaza. The agreement provides for repayment of the \$25,000 over the 12 months beginning January of 2014 at an interest rate of 6%. The agreement also provides that transfer of title to a piece of property which includes a storm drainage structure at the southeast corner of the Parkway site. In exchange for the property, the City agrees to clean-up excess debris which is located on the adjacent lot. Council agreed to consider this proposal at the next regular Council meeting.

Representatives of the KLJ Consulting firm presented their report and recommendations for two MPO projects located in the City of Casper. Andrew Nelson, MPO Supervisor, introduced the studies and noted that the information was being provided to Council in order to get their input and that the final report and recommendations would be presented to the MPO Policy Committee for approval in December. The first report involved the 15th and 21st Street Subarea Traffic Study. This study looked at a total of 14 intersections in a portion of the City where the population density has increased significantly in the last several years and where additional new residential development is planned. At the present time 25% of the City's total population resides in the subarea. The most significant recommendations for this area in the short term

included a new traffic signal at 21st and Beverly Streets, and the reconstruction of the intersection at 15th and McKinley Streets. Estimated cost for those improvements is \$730,000.

The second report involved a study of the intersection of 2nd and Beverly Streets. The long-term impact at this intersection regarding safety of vehicles and pedestrians, will require the elimination of all left hand turns and the proposal calls for the eventual construction of a “bow tie” design which includes roundabouts at 1st Street and Beverly and at 3rd Street and Beverly. Council had several questions about this recommendation and expressed concern whether the proposed design would be acceptable to the driving public in Casper. The estimated cost of these improvements is \$2.2 million.

Council questioned the existence of a County liquor license at the property in the Salt Creek Development which formerly housed the American Legion and now houses Arrowhead Catering. Staff agreed to check on this issue.

Councilman Powell reported that the CAEDA Education Committee met and received an update regarding the UWCasper Campus construction which will result in a new location for the UW Radiology Degree Program in the old Music Building.

Councilman Cathey questioned the requirements for keeping open new residential foundations if they are not being constructed in a timely manner. Staff agreed to look into this concern and provide some feedback.

The Chamber of Commerce has a new Executive Director who was introduced to Councilmembers at the Info Share Meeting.

At 6:40 p.m. the Vice Mayor declared the meeting to be adjourned.